

NEWSLEAK



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SC DHEC
Bureau of Water

Regulation Review

Rules Affect Federally-Defined Groundwater Systems

By Richard Welch, Drinking Water Compliance

Over the past few years, the US EPA has drafted or finalized several new regulations that affect federally-defined water systems. Although most of the focus has been on surface water systems because of the higher risk of a waterborne disease outbreak associated with treating surface water, there have been quite a few regulations that also apply to groundwater systems and purchased or master-metered systems. A brief summary of some of these regulations is provided below. State (Type S) water systems are not required to comply with the monitoring requirements of these regulations.



South Carolina public drinking water wells are subject to a variety of regulatory requirements.

Distribution System Operator Certification

This regulation requires community (Type C) and Nontransient, Noncommunity (Type P) water systems to designate an individual (or 2) as the official operator(s) in charge. This person(s) must be certified at the appropriate grade for the distribution system

group as determined by the Environmental Certification Board. Also, any operator that makes process control or system integrity decisions that could affect public health must also be certified.

Groundwater Rule

The EPA has NOT finalized this regulation. The regulation was proposed several years ago. Public comments were received, and the EPA is still in the process of revising the rule. The rule will require sanitary surveys, which are already being done by DHEC. Also, a sensitivity assessment must be done and DHEC is currently planning on doing this. If a system draws water from a sensitive area and does not provide adequate inactivation of viruses, they must collect and analyze a source water sample for fecal coliform monthly. In addition, the system must collect and analyze a source water sample if there is a total coliform positive sample result in the distribution system. If a groundwater system has a significant deficiency identified on the sanitary survey, there are a number of things that must be done.

Disinfection By-Products

As of this January (2004), water systems adding a chemical disinfectant were required to comply with the Disinfection By-products (DBP) regulation. This regulation requires that trihalomethane (THM) and haloacetic acid (HAA) samples be collected for these water systems. In addition, the water system must collect disinfectant residual samples in the distribution system at the same time as

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Upcoming Events

South Carolina DHEC Backflow Certification Workshop

August 10, 11, & 12, 2004
Clemson, South Carolina
For more information, call (803) 898-3567

South Carolina Rural Water Association 2004 Annual Technical Conference & Exhibit Show

November 15-18, 2004
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
For more information, call (864) 833-5566

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Regulation Review

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location as the already required bacteriological samples. Several years from now, there will be more regulations concerning DBP that will have a larger impact than the current rule.

Arsenic Regulation

The current drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic is being revised from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. This will be effective in January 2006, and is not projected to be a major issue in South Carolina.

Radon Regulation

This will be a new regulation that sets an MCL for radon. There will potentially be two different MCLs for this regulation. The higher-level MCL will be allowed if the state or water system develops a program aimed at reducing the radon in indoor air. The regulation will probably become effective in early 2006.

Radionuclide Regulation

This regulation applies only to community (Type C) water systems and it went into effect in December 2003. The regulation maintained the MCLs for radium, alpha particles, and beta photon emitters, and established an MCL for uranium. The greatest potential for radionuclides exists in the Piedmont and Upstate, but localized radionuclides may also exist in the coastal plain areas.

Water System Security Regulations

The “bioterrorism bill” requires community (Type C) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to perform a vulnerability assessment of their water system and compile or update their emergency response plan. The vulnerability assessment due dates were tied to system size. The last deadline is for systems serving between 3,300 and 50,000 people. A written copy of each water system’s assessment must be sent to the EPA. For more detailed information about water system security or requirements for assessments and emergency plans, contact Bill Randolph at (803) 898-3556, or by e-mail at randolws@dhec.sc.gov.

You can find information about regulations affecting drinking water systems by visiting the EPA Website at www.epa.gov/safewater/regs.html.

System Types

Your system type determines what regulations you must meet. All system types are listed below.

Type C—Community Water System

A Type C water system is one that serves at least fifteen service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least twenty-five year-round residents. This may include, but is not limited to, subdivisions, municipalities, mobile home parks, and apartments.

Type N—Transient Noncommunity Water System

A Type N water system is one that serves at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five individuals daily at least sixty days out of the year, and does not meet the definition of a community water system.

Type P—Nontransient Noncommunity Water System

A Type P water system is one that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least twenty-five of the same people over six months per year.

Type S—State Water System

A Type S water system is one that serves less than fifteen service connections or regularly serves an average of less than twenty-five individuals daily.



Tech Briefs...They're Great....and They're Free

The National Environmental Services Center (NESC) provides technical assistance and information about drinking water, wastewater, environmental training, and solid waste management to communities serving fewer than 10,000 individuals. Let them help you. Visit them online at www.nesc.wvu.edu.

Tech Briefs are four-page fact sheets that are included in "On Tap" magazine, a publication of the NESC's National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC). Each fact sheet provides concise technical information about a drinking water treatment technology relevant to small systems. The Tech Briefs are written for drinking water professionals, particularly

small system operators. Tables and descriptive illustrations are provided, as well as sources for more information. A package of the Tech Brief fact sheets is available in a three-ring binder as an NDWC product. New selections can be added to the binder as they become available.

To order this free product, call (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191 and ask for item #DWPKPE71. You may also e-mail ndwc_orders@mail.nesc.wvu.edu.

Drinking Water Annual Fee Invoice Going Out In July

Section 44-55-120 of the State Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the Department to collect annual fees from each public water system. The SDWA fee program has been in existence since 1993.



Several public water systems still owe fees to the Department for one or more years.

Reminder notices are mailed at 30, 60 and 90 day intervals after the annual invoice is mailed (usually in July of each year).

Please be advised that no monitoring will be conducted on systems with fees unpaid at the end of 90 days past the invoice date. This could result in a monitoring and reporting violation being incurred by the public water system. Such violations are subject to enforcement action that may result in the assessment of civil penalties, in addition to any delinquent fees incurred. Paying your invoice immediately or establishing a payment schedule will prevent increased expenses in the future.



Get the Help You Need in Writing Your CCR!



As mentioned in the last issue of Newsleak, all South Carolina Community Water Systems are required to provide Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) to their customers and SC DHEC by July 1, 2004. These reports tell your customer where their drinking water comes from, what's in it, and how to help protect it. Listed below are some sources that can aid you in preparing your system's CCR.

- The EPA has a publication called "Consumer Confidence Report Rule: A Quick Reference Guide." The guide highlights required parts of a CCR and the type of information to be included in the report. The EPA also has software called CCRWriter that you can use to write your CCR Report.
- The South Carolina Rural Water Association (SCRWA) has access to a CCR template on their Web site.

Links to EPA and SCRWA's materials can be found at www.scdhec.gov/water/html/dwcompmo.html#consumer.



New Monitoring Requirements Must be Included in CCR

If you manage a surface water system serving a population of less than 10,000 people or a ground water system that uses disinfectant treatment (chlorine, chlorine dioxide, ammonia, etc.), then please take note that as of January 1, 2004, your system was required to comply with new requirements under the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBPR). This includes monitoring and reporting of disinfectant residuals, and compliance with a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs), as well as a Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) for disinfectants. Water systems that filter must also monitor and report Total Organic Carbon (TOC). Your system must include these new parameters in your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

If you have any questions concerning your CCR, contact Frank Dukes at (803) 898-3988, or e-mail him at dukeswf@dhec.sc.gov.

Meet the New Drinking Water Enforcement Manager

Karen Ramos is the new manager of the Drinking Water Enforcement Section. Prior to becoming manager, Karen worked in both the wastewater and drinking water enforcement sections within the Bureau of Water. Karen's life outside of DHEC includes a love of working with animals, especially horses. However, her favorite activity is spending time with her nine-year-old daughter, Marina.





Virginia's Small Water System Resource Web Site

Information provided from the National Environmental Services Center Web site at www.nesc.wvu.edu/

Small water systems across the country share similar financial, managerial, and technical problems. Virginia Water Resources Research Center's Web site has a section devoted to small water systems that provides online assistance in the following categories:

- ◆ **Regulations**
- ◆ **Technical assistance**
- ◆ **Financial assistance**
- ◆ **Risk management**
- ◆ **Seminars, conferences, and training opportunities**
- ◆ **Publications**

Visit www.vwrrc.vt.edu/sws to learn more.

Enforcement Division Report

During January 1, 2004–March 31, 2004, the Enforcement Division issued 2 Consent Agreements, 51 Consent Orders, 6 Administrative Orders and 0 Emergency Orders. The Water Enforcement Division assessed approximately \$211,340.00 during the first quarter of 2004.

More information about enforcement activities within DHEC may be found at www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/eqcmain.html#Enforcement.

	*(CA)	(CO)	(AO)	(EO)
Agricultural Facilities		1		
Capacity Use		1		
Dams and Reservoirs				
Drinking Water		18	1	
Groundwater	2			
NPDES		16	1	
Pollution Control Act		2		
Recreational Waters		4		
Residential Wells		5	2	
Stormwater & Sediment Control		4	2	

*Consent Agreement/Consent Order/Administrative Order/Emergency Order

SRF Funds Available

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides low-interest, long-term loans to communities for construction of drinking water and wastewater treatment and transmission facilities. Money is available in both the Drinking Water and Clean Water (wastewater) SRF programs. A share of these funds may await your drinking water or wastewater facilities project.



Loan interest rates for the upcoming fiscal year are the lowest in program history.

To submit a project questionnaire and get on the priority list, contact Tom McDonough at (803) 898-4038, or visit www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srf.html.

Bureau of Water Telephone Numbers

Main Telephone Number
(803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number
(803) 898-4215

EQC District Offices

APPALACHIA I	(864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee	
APPALACHIA II	(864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens	
APPALACHIA III	(864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union	
CATAWBA	(803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York	
CENTRAL MIDLANDS	(803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield	
EDISTO SAVANNAH	(803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun	
LOW COUNTRY	(843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton	
PEE DEE	(843) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield	
TRIDENT	(843) 740-1590
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester	
UPPER SAVANNAH	(864) 223-0333
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick	
WACCAMAW	(843) 448-1902
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg	
WATEREE	(803) 778-1531
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon	

For Information Call . . .

Lead & Copper
Leslie Owens (803) 898-4149

Bacteriological Monitoring Program
Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

THM and SWTR compliance
Vivianne Vejdani (803) 898-4156

Radiological compliance
Patrick Metts (803) 898-3794

IOC, VOC, and SOC compliance
Wendi Smith (803) 898-3572

State Safe Drinking Water Act Fees
Susan Alder (803) 898-3554

Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control
John Watkins (803) 898-3567

Permitting of sources and treatment
Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

Permitting of water distribution lines
Wayne Stokes (803) 898-4159

Status of permit applications
Patty Barnes (803) 898-3550

Disinfectants/Disinfection By-product Rule
Doug Kinard (803) 898-3543